

Ireland • Northern Ireland
National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium

2000 - 2011



TIMELINE *of Activities*

2000-2011

<http://www.allirelandnci.org>

About the Consortium

The All-Ireland National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Consortium (AICC) was formed to lessen the burden of cancer across the island of Ireland through transatlantic collaborations in research and education. The Consortium emerged as a direct result of the Belfast Agreement and the United States' role in facilitating the Northern Ireland peace process. The Consortium's formation became official with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in October 1999.

Since then, the MOU has been resigned to reaffirm the commitment between the three jurisdictions. This trilateral partnership enables the further development of improved scientific programmes in the following areas:

- Prevention and early detection
- Diagnosis and treatment
- Palliative care and survivorship
- Interactions aimed at enhanced public health and patient care
- Research (including biobanking)
- Education and training for physicians, nurses, and scientists
- Epidemiology (including registration and surveillance)
- Quality assurance
- Cancer policy analysis and health economics

Each partner funds activities central to the goals of the AICC. Ireland's Department of Health (DoH) and Northern Ireland's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) have funded training programmes, clinical trials capacity building, information technology initiatives, and cancer registries across the island of Ireland. NCI has provided organisational support for the AICC, including overall communications support. All three partners have supported scholar exchange and training.

We are proud to look back over the last decade and see the steady advancement of our goals. More than 350 scholars have benefited from our training and fellowship opportunities. Ireland Cooperative Oncology Group (ICORG) is now accruing more than 1,000 patients per year for clinical trials. TELESYNGERY® enables telemedicine collaborations at 10 hospitals across the island. And in 2011, we sponsored more conferences and opportunities for exchange than ever before. All of these accomplishments are aimed at the goal of lessening the cancer burden across the island of Ireland.

For more information about the Consortium, please visit <http://www.allirelandnci.com>.



Representatives from Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States sign the first Consortium Memorandum of Understanding in Belfast, Northern Ireland (1999).



Leadership from the Health Departments of Ireland and Northern Ireland, with the Minister of Education (Ireland), launch the AICC Annual Activities Report 2010 at the North-South Ministerial Council Meeting in Armagh, Northern Ireland (2011).

Number of Scholars Supported by the Consortium (2000-2011)

Type of Exchange Programme	Duration of Programme	Ireland	Northern Ireland	United States	Total Participants
Cancer Clinical Trials Leadership and Management Programme *	1 week	4	1		5
NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses	3 weeks/ 3 months	11	9		20
Clinical Trials E-Learning Module for Nurses	12 weeks	24	27		51
Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer	4 years	6	1		7
Joint Research Projects in Cancer †	2-3 years	8	6	8	22
NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention: Molecular Prevention Course	1 week	124	40		164 ‡
NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention: Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course	4 weeks	84	40		124 ‡
NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program	4 years	3	4		7
Epidemiology Fellowship	3 years	2	1	1	4

* New programme in 2010

† Formerly known as the Joint Research Fellowships in Cancer

‡ The total number of participants includes fellows who completed the course as a requirement for the NCI CCPF, JRPC, and HRB/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer (2000-2009)



2000

Organisation & Leadership

- Consortium Board of Directors (BOD) meets for the first time
- Trilateral funding agreement is finalised
- Implementation plan is drafted
- Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) is established

Training & Fellowships

- Consortium selects two fellows from the island of Ireland to participate in the inaugural class of the Cancer Epidemiology Fellowship
- Planning begins for National Cancer Institute (NCI) Clinical Trials Training for Nurses programme on the island of Ireland

Telemedicine Partnership

- NCI installs the first TELESYNERGY® suites on the island of Ireland in Belfast City Hospital, Belfast, Northern Ireland and St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

Conferences & Exchange

- All-Ireland study team visits NCI

2001

Organisation & Leadership

- SAG meets for the first time
- Consortium develops Working Group (WG) structure and goals
- Prevention WG is established

Training & Fellowships

- First Consortium-sponsored cancer epidemiology fellows arrive at NCI
- AICC funds 16 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention

Research & Clinical Trials

- Health Research Board (HRB) awards funding to hospitals to build clinical trials capacity in Ireland

Telemedicine Partnership

- Trinity College Dublin and St. James's Hospital Campus, Dublin, Ireland install TELESYNERGY® suites

Conferences & Exchange

- Minister of the Department of Health, Social Service and Public Safety (DHSSPS) for Northern Ireland visits NCI in Bethesda, Maryland, United States

Publications

- Cancer registries of Ireland and Northern Ireland publish the first *All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Report 1994-1996*
- AICC launches website and help desk
- AICC publishes *1st Cancer Consortium newsletter* and *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2000-2001: Cancer Research Across Borders*

2002

Organisation & Leadership

- NCI Director Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach replaces former NCI Director Dr. Richard Klausner on the BOD
- Prevention WG meets for the first time

Training & Fellowships

- Three island of Ireland oncology nurses participate in the first round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses held at NCI
- First NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program fellow from the island of Ireland arrives at NCI
- AICC funds 19 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- Four island of Ireland oncology nurses participate in the second round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses

Research & Clinical Trials

- Ireland Cooperative Oncology Group (ICORG) submits joint proposal

Telemedicine Partnership

- TELESYNERGY® User Group formed
- St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin, Ireland holds TELESYNERGY® demonstration with former NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and NCI Director and BOD member Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach

Conferences & Exchange

- Nursing WG holds an Information Day
- Cancer Registries WG participates in *International Association of Cancer Registries* meeting in Finland
- All-Ireland delegation participates in *NIH Conference on Palliative Care*
- AICC co-sponsors *Cancer Care Ireland 2002 Conference* at Waterfront Hall in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Publications

- AICC publishes *2nd Cancer Consortium newsletter*

2003

Training & Fellowships

- AICC funds 27 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- Two island of Ireland oncology nurses participate in third round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses

Research & Clinical Trials

- ICORG is launched in Dublin, Ireland and in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Telemedicine Partnership

- NCI hosts the first TELESYNERGY® User Group meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, United States

Conferences & Exchange

- AICC participates in the inaugural *Cancer Conference* of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin, Ireland
- AICC hosts inaugural Prevention WG workshop on smoking cessation in Dundalk, Ireland
- Minister of the Department of Health and Children (DoHC) of Ireland visits NIH
- AICC hosts *Second All-Ireland NCI Cancer Conference*

Publications

- AICC publishes 3rd *Cancer Consortium* newsletter and *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2001-2002: Cancer Research Across Borders*
- First epidemiology fellowship awarded to U.S. researcher to develop the *All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Second Report 1998-2000*

2004

Training & Fellowships

- AICC funds 26 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- Three island of Ireland oncology nurses participate in fourth round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses
- NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program selects three island of Ireland scholars

Research & Clinical Trials

- Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology is launched in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Telemedicine Partnership

- NCI installs TELESYNERGY® suite at the Division of Radiation Therapy, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland
- Minister of the DoHC of Ireland develops National TELESYNERGY® Network for Oncology Service

Conferences & Exchange

- Consortium co-sponsors the *Cancer 2004 Conference* of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin, Ireland
- AICC Prevention WG holds inaugural seminar on obesity and cancer in Dublin, Ireland
- Consortium showcased at the *International Union Against Cancer World Conference for Cancer* in Dublin, Ireland

Publications

- *All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Second Report 1998-2000* published by Consortium-sponsored U.S. epidemiology fellow and cancer registries of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- AICC publishes *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2003: Deepening Connections, Expanding Horizons*

2005

Training & Fellowships

- AICC funds 25 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program selects two island of Ireland scholars

Research & Clinical Trials

- HRB and NCI jointly fund the All-Ireland Joint Research Projects in Cancer

Telemedicine Partnership

- NCI installs TELESYNERGY® at the University College Hospital Galway, Galway, Ireland and Cork University Hospital, Cork, Ireland

Conferences & Exchange

- AICC co-sponsors the *Cancer 2005 Conference* of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin, Ireland

Publications

- AICC publishes the 4th *Cancer Consortium* newsletter; *2000-2004 All-Ireland Consortium Timeline of Activities*; and *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2004: Together in Cancer Research and Education/Building on Five Years of Collaboration*

2006

Organisation & Leadership

- NCI Director Dr. John Niederhuber replaces Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach on the BOD
- DHSSPS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael McBride replaces Dr. Henrietta Campbell on the BOD
- Memorandum of Understanding between Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States re-signed at Waterfront Hall, Belfast, Northern Ireland during the *Third All-Ireland Cancer Conference*

Training & Fellowships

- AICC funds 33 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- Northern Ireland evaluates the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program selects one island of Ireland scholar
- Four island of Ireland oncology nurses participate in fifth round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses

Research & Clinical Trials

- AICC awards two Joint Research Projects in Cancer to scientific teams in the United States and the island of Ireland
- Joint Research Projects in Cancer opens solicitation for second round of applications

Telemedicine Partnership

- NCI assists with the installation of TELESYNERGY® Lite equipment in Letterkenny Regional Hospital, Letterkenny, Ireland

Conferences & Exchange

- AICC co-sponsors the *Cancer 2006 Conference* of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin, Ireland
- Minister of the DoHC of Ireland visits NCI in Bethesda, Maryland, United States
- AICC hosts *Third All-Ireland Cancer Conference* in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Publications

- AICC publishes 5th *Cancer Consortium* newsletter; *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2005: Beyond the Framework: Our Continuing Joint Efforts in Cancer Research*; and *2000-2006 All-Ireland Consortium Timeline of Activities*
- AICC is praised for its role in cancer prevention and control in *A Strategy for Cancer Control in Ireland*

2007

Organisation & Leadership

- Minister of the DoHC of Ireland establishes Expert Group (including representatives from the NCI) on a National Cancer Biobank for Ireland

Training & Fellowships

- Thirteen students complete the inaugural round of Queen's University Belfast (QUB) Clinical Trials E-Learning Module for Nurses
- AICC funds 25 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- Two island of Ireland oncology nurses participate in sixth round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses
- NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program selects one island of Ireland scholar

Research & Clinical Trials

- Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology facilities open at QUB, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Telemedicine Partnership

- NCI assists with the installation of TELESYNERGY® Lite equipment at Waterford Regional Hospital, Waterford, Ireland

Conferences & Exchange

- Consortium co-sponsors the *Cancer 2007 Conference* of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin, Ireland
- NCI holds inaugural *All-Ireland Health Economics Workshop*
- Nursing WG develops Strategic Plan 2007-2010 at nursing workshop in Belfast, Northern Ireland
- NCI delegates meet with Expert Group and present at *Biobanking Mini-Symposium* in Dublin, Ireland

Publications

- NCI wins Interactive Media Award for Outstanding Achievement for the Consortium website and the World Wide Web Health Award for public sector media
- AICC publishes the 6th *Cancer Consortium* newsletter and *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2006: Adding Value Through Cancer Research & Education*

2008

Organisation & Leadership

- Northern Ireland Hospice Chief Executive joins Consortium as palliative care liaison to SAG
- Minister of the DoHC of Ireland meets with senior leadership at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C., United States

Training & Fellowships

- HRB and NCI launch the Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer and select two fellows from the island of Ireland
- Evaluation report of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses programme is released
- AICC funds 24 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention

Research & Clinical Trials

- AICC funds seven Joint Research Projects in Cancer in Ireland and Northern Ireland

Telemedicine Partnership

- NCI assists with the installation of TELESYNERGY® system in Beaumont Hospital, Dublin, Ireland
- Belfast, Northern Ireland hosts first TELESYNERGY® education session for cancer nurses; second education session follows

Conferences & Exchange

- NCI organises visit for Ireland and Northern Ireland nursing leadership to NIH and Johns Hopkins Medical Institutes; Leadership meets with counterparts in the United States
- Consortium co-sponsors the *Cancer 2008 Conference* of St. James's Hospital in Dublin, Ireland
- AICC hosts *Fourth All-Ireland Cancer Conference* in Dublin, Ireland

Publications

- AICC publishes the 7th *Cancer Consortium* newsletter; *2000-2008 All-Ireland Consortium Timeline of Activities*; and *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2007: Building Blocks of Success in Cancer Control: Partnership, Education, & Research*

2009

Training & Fellowships

- AICC selects two Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer fellows
- AICC funds 26 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- All-Ireland NCI Cancer Prevention fellows publish more than 10 peer-reviewed journal articles

Research & Clinical Trials

- ICORG studies accrue almost 1,500 patients
- Six Joint Research Projects in Cancer are funded in Ireland and Northern Ireland

Telemedicine Partnership

- Four transatlantic education sessions for cancer nurses are facilitated through TELESYNERGY®
- St. Vincent's University Hospital and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland are selected as the final TELESYNERGY® Lite installation sites

Conferences & Exchange

- 2nd All-Ireland Health Economics Workshop attracts more than 70 academic researchers, students, clinicians, and government officials
- *Cancer 2009: International Cancer Conference* in Dublin, Ireland emphasizes the need for greater integration of cancer research and services
- St. James's Hospital, Dublin, Ireland and Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Ireland showcase Tracy's Kids International Art Exchange Exhibit
- *The Fight Against Cancer: Where Do We Stand* public symposium is held at the Institute of Molecular Medicine, St. James's Hospital and Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
- More than 145 researchers attend the inaugural *Conference on Population-Based Cancer Research*—the first conference of its kind on the island of Ireland
- *Cancer Care Research Workshop* in Antrim, Northern Ireland facilitates cross-border collaboration and knowledge sharing on cancer care

Publications

- *Third All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Report* provides a comprehensive update on the cancer burden on the island of Ireland
- *Recommendations for the Establishment of a National Cancer Biobank* supports efforts for improved biospecimen collection and annotation
- AICC publishes 8th *Cancer Consortium* newsletter and *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2008: Science Serving People: Enhancing Cancer Through Education and Research*

2010

Organisation & Leadership

- Dr. Harold Varmus, newly appointed NCI Director, joins Consortium BOD

Training & Fellowships

- The Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Research and Development Division (HSC R&D) partners with NCI and HRB to fund the Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer, and selects the first fellow from Northern Ireland
- Launch of the Cancer Clinical Trials Leadership and Management Programme expands training opportunities for nurses
- AICC funds two participants in the NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses programme
- AICC funds 16 All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention

Research & Clinical Trials

- ICORG studies accrue more than 1,100 patients
- Joint Research Projects in Cancer continue

Telemedicine Partnership

- TELESYNERGY® and other technologies are leveraged to conduct four transatlantic seminars on nursing and patient care
- Two new hospitals—Limerick Regional Hospital, Limerick, Ireland and St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland—are added to the island-wide TELESYNERGY® network

Conferences & Exchange

- 3rd *Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Health Economics Fellowship Conference* highlights the importance of health economics in cancer control and services in changing economies
- 2010 *Irish Association for Cancer Research Annual Conference* in Galway, Ireland brings together cancer researchers from across the island

Publications

- *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2009: Transcending Borders for Better Health: Empowering the Future Through Research, Education, and Care* is launched at the North-South Ministerial Council Meeting
- AICC publishes 9th *Cancer Consortium* newsletter

2011

Organisation & Leadership

- DoHC reorganization results in formation of the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department of Children (DoC) of Ireland
- NCI announces the new Center for Global Health

Training & Fellowships

- The Irish Cancer Society partners with NCI and HRB to fund the NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program
- Cancer Clinical Trials Leadership and Management Programme continues
- AICC funds sixteen All-Ireland participants in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention
- AICC selects fellow for the Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer

Research & Clinical Trials

- Joint Research Projects in Cancer continue

Telemedicine Partnership

- Belfast, Northern Ireland hosts TELESYNERGY® education session on the *Experience of Inherited Breast Cancer* for cancer nurses

Conferences & Exchange

- NCI presents at *Burkitt's Lymphoma Symposium* during the School of Medicine Tercentenary celebration at Trinity College Dublin
- NCI presents at the 8th *Annual Cancer Conference: State of the Art of Cancer Care* at Trinity College Dublin
- NCI partners with the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children to enable the Tracy's Kids Art Therapy workshop series in Ireland

Publications

- *Consortium Annual Activities Report 2010: International Cooperation in Cancer Control: Overcoming Challenges Through Leadership and Training* launches at the North-South Ministerial Council Meeting in Armagh, Northern Ireland
- AICC publishes 2000-2011 *All-Ireland Consortium Timeline of Activities*



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